

Grace Church Visitor.

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Interests of the Grace Reformed Church,

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

VOL. IX.

NOVEMBER, 1897.

No 8.

GRACE REFORMED CHURCH,

EAST WASHINGTON ST., BETWEEN BARR AND LAFAYETTE.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, PASTOR,

Residence, 96 East Washington St.

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SABBATH SERVICES:

Sabbath School, 9:30 A. M.
Church Services, 10:30 A. M. and 7:30 P. M.
Y. P. S. C. E., 6:45 P. M.
Prayer Meeting, (Wednesday,) 7:30 P. M.

BUY your Christmas goods from the advertisers in the VISITOR. Don't forget this.

THE annual congregational meeting for the election of officers will be held New Years morning at 10 o'clock.

WE are going to have a Christmas Cantata. The entertainment will be given on Christmas evening.

NELLIE RUDISIL took very ill on Thanksgiving Day and has been confined to her bed ever since. She however is improving now and we hope may soon be quite well again.

THE men are busy planning for their New Year's supper, and no doubt the women are already fasting preparatory to the feast. How they do enjoy the men's suppers.

THE ladies of the church are going to have a Christmas market on Thursday before Christmas. They will have on sale: Home-made mince pie, fruit cake, nut cake and cakes of all kinds, cookies, doughnuts, jellies, fruits, pickles and home-made candy. Everything will be donated by the ladies of the church, and all are asked to give what they can. It is the intention to hold the market in a room down in the city somewhere.

NEW YEAR'S SUPPER.

The men of the church will give their annual supper on New Year's evening, in the lecture rooms of the church. The bill of fare will consist of oysters, cold ham, potato salad, cold slaw, celery, cake, fruits, coffee, etc. The men have always furnished a first-class New Year's supper, and had a good social time. The supper this year will no doubt exceed anything they have ever given before. We hope our men will turn out in full and work together energetically to make the supper a great success. The tickets for the supper are 25 cents. Get a supply of them and sell all you can.

GONE TO REST.

After a prolonged illness of a year and a half, Mother Conrad peacefully departed this life Saturday afternoon, November 20th. Mrs. Zartman returned to her home the first of the month and the pastor and daughter Josie, were summoned to Canton on Thursday night, November 19th. When we arrived at the home, and saw the condition of Mother Conrad, we were assured at once that the end was not far off, and that soon the prayers and longings of this mother's heart to be at rest, would be gratified. During the entire period of her sickness her sufferings and distress were intense. There was never a day, nor an hour of relief and rest for her. Her sufferings were indescribable, even to the very moment when death came, though the passing away was peaceful as it was triumphant. During the early part of her illness she was hopeful that something might be done to stay the ravages of the awful disease that was preying upon her life, but every effort and remedy proved futile. For months past already she became fully conscious of her condition, and foresaw that it was only a matter of time until her strength would give way, and the day of departure and separation from friends and loved ones here would come, and she would go to greet friends and dear ones in the "Great Beyond." In all her suffering she was patient, and in a child-like faith and spirit was submissive to the will and ways of her Heavenly Father. Some times the way seemed dark, but she committed herself for guidance and keeping into the hands of the Lord. There was but one solution for her of the problem of her prolonged illness and suffering, namely, that by these afflictions the Lord perfects his children for entrance into the Heavenly Home. The afflictions of this life work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

She was baptized in infancy, and at a very early age in life made a public profession of faith and consecration of herself to the Lord Jesus Christ. During her entire life she remained faithful to her vows, and led a consistent and devout christian life. There was nothing in which she found so much delight and comfort as in the reading of the word of the Lord. A collect of the gospels, and epistles, and psalms was her daily companion. This she read and re-read, again and again, and verse after verse is placed in parenthesis and underscored. Upon this word her soul fed and lived. Repeatedly when asked what chapter or verse of the Bible she loved most, she said she did not know, it was all so good. A few days before her death when the 21st and 22nd Chapters of Revelations were read for her she said, "How beautiful, that is heaven." She was fully conscious to the very moment of her departure and gave full and explicit evidence of her preparation for death, and assurance of her entrance into the Heavenly Home. On Thursday morning before her death she called her little family group around her bedside and gave them good-bye, and told them she was dying, and that she was going to heaven, and that she would watch at heaven's gates for them. She was intensely eager to go, and could scarcely await the moment when the chariots of the Lord should come and take her home. The parting was sad, but her Home-going was joyful and triumphant. For days and months she longed to go where there was rest, and where there should be no more pain, nor suffering and no more death. And now her hopes and longings are all realized. The aged father and daughter, and friends are bereft and sorrow, but they do not sorrow as those who have no hope.

Mother Conrad was the daughter of Adam and Anna Heldenbrand and was born in Starke county, near Canton, Ohio, February

2nd, 1825. She was aged 72 years, 9 months and 18 days. She was married to Benjamin Conrad, August 26, 1852. This marriage union was blessed with two sons and one daughter. The two sons died in infancy. For more than twenty years Father and Mother Conrad were residents of Canton, Ohio, and were members of the Reformed church of that city. The funeral services were held at the family residence on Tuesday afternoon, November 23rd, and were in charge of Rev. F. C. Nau, pastor of the First Reformed church of Canton. The Scripture lesson read, were portions of the 14th Chapter of John 1-6; and Rev. 21, 1-25. Text: Rev. 21, 4. We give below one of her favorite hymns that was sung at the funeral. At a late hour in the afternoon the remains were tenderly laid away to rest in the family lot in the West Lawn cemetery.

Jesus, Saviour, pilot me,
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal,
Chart and compass come from thee,
Jesus, Saviour, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child
Thou canst hush the ocean wild.
Boisterous waves obey thy will,
When thou sayest to them, "Be still!"
Wonderous sovereign of the sea,
Jesus, Saviour, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore
And the fearful breakers roar,
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
Then, while leaning on thy breast
May I hear Thee say to me,
Fear not, I will pilot thee.

WE ARE very grateful to the members of Grace Church for their many and warm expressions of sympathy in our bereavement and sorrow. We have learned to know and appreciate more than ever before, the worth and

comfort of sympathizing friends in the hour of sorrow and affliction. We are also thankful for the flowers furnished by the ladies of Grace Church.

CHRISTMAS TREE ENVELOPES.

For a number of years past we have furnished the scholars in the Sabbath School with envelopes for their Christmas offerings. For two years past they were supplied with envelopes with brick houses on the face of them—and the children sold the bricks for a penny a piece, and the doors and windows for a nickel a piece, and then placed the receipts in the envelopes. The children took a great delight in this method of gathering money for the church, and were quite successful. On a recent Sabbath, when the children were asked whether they wanted to do collecting this year again, there was a unanimous and very eager response of willingness on the part of the whole school. The envelopes with which the scholars will be supplied this year have beautiful Christmas trees on the face of them. These trees are loaded with Christmas boxes, which the children will sell for a penny a piece and the trees for a dime. Each envelope will have the name of the collector on the face of it, and also the name of our church. The pennies and dimes are to be placed into the envelopes, and great care should be taken so that the envelopes will not be soiled or torn. We are very anxious to see how much money will be raised by these envelopes; how much each scholar will have, and who will have the largest amount. In the January issue of the VISITOR a report will be given of the amounts collected. These envelopes, with their contents, will be the scholars' admission tickets to the Christmas entertainment. We hope the members and friends of the church will encourage the children in their work and assist them liberally in filling their envelopes.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, Editor and Publisher.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

A. K. ZARTMAN, L. W. HILLS, S. DUKEMAN.

Subscription, 25 cents per year in advance.

Entered at the Post-Office at Fort Wayne, Ind., as second-class matter.

THE SUBSCRIPTION CARDS.

In a very short time now, the members of the church will be furnished with subscription cards for the current expenses of the church. These cards will either be enclosed with the yearly statements, or the members will be called upon by some member of the Consistory. It is the intention of the Consistory that for the coming year, every member shall fill out a card and obligate himself to pay a certain amount weekly toward the current expenses of the church, no matter how small the amount may be. There are good reasons why we feel that every member, if it all able, should pay to the current expenses. First, it is right that the expenses of the church should be borne by the whole church and not by a portion. All are entitled to like privileges and benefits of the church, and so all should contribute their full proportion toward the support of the church to which they have the privilege of belonging. Not all can give the same amounts, and this the Lord does not ask. He simply asks, and the church only expects, that each member should give in proportion as he is able. But it is not right that three-fourths of a membership should meet an expense that belongs to the whole church. A great many of our families give very liberally; others could give more; some do not give at all. We sometimes wish that the Financial Secretary's book might be open for inspection to every member of the church. We are certain that many would be stimu-

lated to give more liberally if they would see how largely others are giving, and not because they are more abundantly able, but because they feel more fully their obligations to the Lord, and have a greater delight in giving.

Again we feel that every member should pay regularly to the church according to his or her ability, for the reason, that just in proportion as people give to the Lord, and work for Him, so they are benefited and blessed by the Lord. In proportion as people support and work for the church to which they belong, so they will be interested in it and be benefited by it. Let a member become a regular and liberal contributor to the church to which he belongs, and he will also become a regular attendant upon the services of his church, and become devoted to it, and receive the full benefits and blessings of the church. We get out of the church just what we put into it. If we put nothing into the church, nothing of our means for its support, nothing of the heart, nothing of our time, nothing of concern, or prayer, then surely we must not expect any benefits and help from the church. If we want a church home, and enjoy the benign benefits and blessings of a church home, then we must give to that church the best we have for its support and maintenance. A member of the church who has the ability, and does not assist in the support of the church, never feels at home in the church and of necessity does not get out of it the benefits and help which he needs and should have. The church does its members a great injustice when it does not teach them to give and work for its support and for the furtherance of its interest. The church has no right to make parasites out of any of its members, but it is the duty of the church to educate its people, teaching them their varied duties and obligations to the church to which they belong, and so to their Lord and Master, who is the Great Heart of the church. And so we feel that it is a matter of the greatest importance that every member of the church, young and old, should be taught and urged upon to do his full duty to

the church. Now let the beginning of the new year be the time when every member of Grace church will start out to do his full duty in this matter of supporting the church. First, by liberal and systematic giving, and then also by a hearty co-operation in the general work of the church, we are assured that then every member shall have an equal and full share in all the benefits and blessings of the church. Think of this matter now and at once ask the Lord to help you to decide as to what shall be the largest amount possible that you should be able to pay weekly during the coming year for the support of your church. When you are solicited or furnished with the blank subscription card, fill it out promptly and return it to the Financial Secretary.

THE LADIES' NICKEL AND DOLLAR FUND.

Nickel Fund previously reported.....\$103.57
ADDITIONAL.

Mrs. John Smith..... 1.50

Total.....\$105.07

Dollar Fund previously reported.....\$24 25
ADDITIONAL.

Mrs. Mabel Clayton..... 1.00

Mrs. Walter Mitchel. 1.00

Mrs. James Evard..... 1.00

Mrs. W. H. Friend..... 1.00

Mrs. Bertha Stoll..... 1.00

Mrs. F. D. Paulus..... 1.00

Mrs. Wm. Cutler 1.00

Total.....\$31.25

Whole amount of Nickel and Dollar

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 Weekly Prayer Meeting Sabbath Evening at 6:45.

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS AND LEADERS.

Dec. 12—One thing I have learned from Paul's life or writings, Act 9, 1-22. Mrs. Zartman.

Dec. 19—Our sins and how to get rid of them, Luke 13, 23-30. Frank Bercot.

Dec. 26—What message did Christmas bring to you? Isa. 53, 1-12. Frank Hills.

Jan. 2—How to pray, Luke 11, 1-13. Lillie Walters.

THE YEARLY STATEMENTS.

In a very short time the Financial Secretary will furnish the members of the church with their yearly statements. Nearly all of our people have paid up their weekly subscriptions very promptly, and possibly not many are in arrears. A number of the members did not fill out subscription cards this year and have not been regular in their payments to the church. The consistory hopes however, that before the year closes they will make an offering of a good round sum for the current expenses of the church. The Lord asks us to give as he has given to us—and it is only when we deal honestly with the Lord in our giving that we have any assurance that He will continue to give unto us. "Give and it shall be given unto you," are the words of the Master.

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